

*Copied to Anglo / Japanese  
Relations*

LDW 589/19

OO FCO

GR 130

CONFIDENTIAL

FM TOKYO 192300Z SEP 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 561 OF 19 SEP 82.

FOLLOWING FOR SCHOLAR FROM BUTLER.

BEGINS:

PLEASE PASS TO FCO, DOI, TREASURY.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER THE CALL ON THE PRIME MINISTER BY MR KAWAMATA, CHAIRMAN OF NISSAN.

QUOTE

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MR KAWAMATA DISCUSSED THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION, THE WORLD AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY SITUATION, AND THE CURRENT STATE OF THE JAPANESE AND BRITISH AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRIES.

THE QUESTION OF NISSAN INVESTMENT IN BRITAIN WAS DISCUSSED, AND THE PRIME MINISTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT SHE WOULD WELCOME IT.

THE DETAILS OF THE CONVERSATION ARE OF COURSE CONFIDENTIAL.

UNQUOTE

BOTH SIDES AGREED TO CONFINE THEMSELVES DIRECTLY TO THIS STATEMENT.

ENDS.

CORTAZZI

NNNN

GR 400  
CONFIDENTIAL  
DESKBY FCO AND DOI 100800Z

CONFIDENTIAL

FM TOKYO 100300Z SEP 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELNO 520 OF 10 SEP 82 AND TO IMMEDIATE DOI.

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT: NISSAN.

1. THE JAPANESE PRESS HAS DISCOVERED, APPARENTLY FROM JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SOURCES, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL BE MEETING KAWAMATA, THE CHAIRMAN OF NISSAN, DURING HER VISIT TO JAPAN. THEY HAVE SPECULATED THAT THE MEETING IS DESIGNED BY US TO PUT PRESSURE ON NISSAN TO REACH AN EARLY FAVOURABLE DECISION ON THE UK PROJECT. THE JAPANESE MFA HAVE CONSULTED US ABOUT THE LINE THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN IN RESPONSE TO INEVITABLE PRESS ENQUIRIES HERE AND POSSIBLY IN THE UK.

2. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING LINE. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE ARE PLANS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO MEET KAWAMATA. HE ENTERTAINED HER AND TOOK HER ROUND A NISSAN PLANT IN 1977 WHEN MRS THATCHER WAS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION. SINCE THEN THE TWO HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO MEET SEMI COLON THE FORTHCOMING VISIT TO JAPAN SEEMS TO PROVIDE A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO DO SO. THE INTENTION IS THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE A GENERAL TALK. WE DO NOT KNOW AND CANNOT SAY WHAT SUBJECTS MIGHT BE TOUCHED ON. DETAILED DISCUSSIONS ABOUT NISSAN'S POSSIBLE INVESTMENT IN THE UK HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON AT OTHER LEVELS WITH HMG. THE LATEST DISCUSSIONS WERE HELD BETWEEN MR JENKIN AND OKUMA AT THE END OF JULY WHEN WE RECEIVED A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF NISSAN'S PRESENT THINKING AND THE REASONS WHY NISSAN WERE STILL UNABLE TO TAKE A DECISION ON THE MATTER. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN THE POSITION SINCE THEN.

3. IN RESPONSE TO ANY FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS WE WOULD PROPOSE TO STICK RIGIDLY TO THE LINE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH KAWAMATA WILL BE FOR A GENERAL TALK: TO DO OTHERWISE WOULD BE TO RUN THE SERIOUS RISK THAT KAWAMATA MIGHT BE FRIGHTENED OFF AND DECLINE AFTER ALL TO MEET MRS THATCHER. SINCE THERE WILL BE NO IMMEDIATE RESULT FROM THE MEETING IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT NOT TO RAISE PRESS EXPECTATIONS OTHERWISE THE EXERCISE WILL BE PORTRAYED AS A FAILURE.

4. THE MFA HERE HAVE AGREED TO THIS RECOMMENDED LINE AND WILL WE HOPE FOLLOW IT CLOSELY. WE SHALL ALSO BE IN TOUCH WITH NISSAN TO EXPLAIN OUR LINE AND TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE BRITISH SIDE WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS LEAK. GRATEFUL TO KNOW URGENTLY IF YOU SEE ANY DIFFICULTY OTHERWISE WE SHALL ACT ACCORDINGLY.  
CORTAZZI

LIMITED  
FED  
MAE D  
ECD (E)  
NEWS . D  
PS  
PS/LORD BELSTEAD

PS/MR RIFKIND  
PS/IPS  
MR GIFFARD  
MR DONALD

COPIES SENT TO  
No. 10 DOWNING STREET

COPIES TO :  
MR MOUNTFIELD  
VEHICLE DIV  
DOI  
MR SUNDERLAND }  
MR DUNNING } DOT

CONFIDENTIAL